(i) Handloom Weaving:
No. of Household units — 1223956
No. of Non-household units — 680.
Household Members:

(ii) (a) Weaving Activity — 1716440 (b) Preparatory Work — 280313.

(b) and (c) No specific report has been received about any powerloom units running in loss. Handlooms and Handicrafts being in decentralised sector, such data arc not maintained.

(d) In respect of powcrlooms, Government has been implementing schemes such as setting up of Powerloom Service Centres, upgradation of the same, Computer Aided Design Centres, Insurance Schemes for Powerloom Workers, etc.

Major Schemes for handloom development include Project Package Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Health Package Schemes, Group Insurance Schemes, Thrift Fund Schemes and Mill Gate Price Scheme. Several Schemes arc" also implemented for development of handicrafts including Departmentally Run Training Centres, Apprenticeship Training Scheme, Assistance to Central/State Handicrafts Corporations and Apex Societies, Training of Trainers, Schemes for Revival of Languishing Crafts and other social security schemes.

Development of Handicrafts in Assam

2629. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government for promotion and development of handicrafts in Assam; and

(b) the funds allocated and provided for upgradation of skills of traditional artisans and craftsmen during 1998-99, District-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The details of steps taken by the Government for promotion, development of handicrafts in the country including in the State of Assam include: training; setting up of crafts development centres; opening of new emporia and renovation/ expansion of existing exporia; exhibition and publicity; workshed-cum-housing etc.

(b) A sum of Rs. 28.61 lakhs has been sanctioned to the State of Assam during 1998-99, till date, for upgradation of skills of artisans and crftsmen District-wise data is not maintained.

Jute Manufactured Items

2630. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the jute manaufactured items despite increasing demands in foreign countries are affected adversely due to lack of support from Government;

(b) whether Government agencies which arc concerned about export growth are mostly failing to explore proper avenues for increasing the export output;

(c) the details of agencies working at present for directing the export to be augmented, their locations, turnover with information and the assistance rendered during the past three years;

(d) whether any further steps are taken to save the industry manufacturing jute and jute made items; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government has provided consistent and adequate support to Jute Manufactures Development Council (JMDC), a statutory body under Ministry of Textiles set up for monitoring the growth of export of jute products in the

country. Various schemes have been implemented from time to time to augment the export of jute goods, like

External Market Assistance Scheme, Export Promotion Stabilisation Fund Scheme etc. Funds arc provided to the Council by the Government for op-crating the export incentive schemes, as also for participation of the Council in various export promotion events at home and abroad for growth of jute goods produced in the country.

(c) Jute Manufactures Development Council has been set up by the Government w.c.f. 1.5.84 under the JMDC Act, 1983 and delegated all functions relating to export promotion in jute sector. The Head Office of the Council is in Calcutta, with three Branch Offices at Delhi, Chennai and Hyderabad, to organise and monitor the export promotion events.

JMDC has incurred the following expenditure during the last three years towards export promotion of jute goods from its annual budget and from the budget provided to it for execution of the National Jute Development Programme under UNDP.

	GOI (Rs./Lakhs)	UNDP (US$)
1995-96	2343.26	195550
1996-97	2361.36	214515
1997-98	2366.95	269639

(d) and (c) The Government has taken several other steps to help the jute industry in export of jute goods. In addition to the export promotion efforts of JMDC through market incentives like EMA, the Council organises Buyer-Seller Meetings, liaises with importers and end users and provides funds for R&D to develop new' range of diversified jute products.

The Government has also implemented a National Jute Programme with UNDP assistance and set up National Centre for Jute Diversification for entrepreneurial development in jute sector.

Import/Export performance in Textile Industry

2631. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether import of yarn fabric and made-ups into the country increased by 32% during April-July this year;

(b) the countries from which imports arc going on; and

(c) the export performance during that period?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) According the provisional figures of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), the import of textile yarn, fabrics and made-ups during the period April-July, 1998 recorded an increase of 32% in rupee terms and 14.8% in dollar terms, over the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) Republic of Korea, Chinese Taipei, Peoples Republic of China, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Nepal, Thailand and USA are the major countries from which these textiles items arc being imported by India.

(c) As per DGCI&S figures, the export of textile yarn, fabrics and made-ups amounted to Rs. 5620.31 Crore (provisional) during the period April-July, 1998.

Crisis in Jute Industry

2632. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the jute industry is fast heading for a serious crisis as it is sandwitched between suspension